



# NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

## Competitor Profile (National)

### Houston Brumit – The Opportunity of a Lifetime!

Born in Texas in 1921, Houston Brumit has experienced a lot in his 85 years. Growing up a self described “Texas farm boy,” he is also an Army veteran of World War II, serving stateside from 1942-1946 in the 38<sup>th</sup> Service Command. After graduating from Southwestern Bible College in 1949, he went on to enjoy a multifaceted career assembling aircraft, working in the U.S. Postal Service, helping coordinate Christian education activities and eventually serving as pastor in several area churches. Along with Wanda, his wife of 63 years, he raised his family in the small Texas town of Denison. The family, who all live nearby, includes two daughters and two sons, along with nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. All take pride Brumit’s boundless energy and spirit.



Active in sports all his life, Brumit played football, basketball and ran track in high school, and still enjoys bowling, swimming, horseshoes and other activities, which he credits for helping him stay in shape. When he reached his golden years, he wasn’t ready to call it quits and in 1993, he first signed up to compete in the National Veterans Golden Age Games. He’s been a regular competitor at the annual event ever since. “That first year is one of my favorite memories of the Games,” Brumit now says. “I won gold medals in the pentathlon and also in swimming.” Since then he’s amassed many more, and adding to those he has won in the Texas Senior Games, he estimates that he now has more than 300.

Brumit maintains a strong competitive drive, but also cherishes the memories and the friendships he has made over the years at this unique national event. “I like the challenge and also meeting the people and building friendships,” he says. “Just being able to get involved, to participate and be a part of these Games is the opportunity of a lifetime. It is so exciting, and always a thrill for me just to be there.”

For serving as a role model for other seniors, Houston Brumit was selected for the *George Ghangi Most Inspirational Athlete* award at the Games several years ago and he still cherishes the memory. “What an honor it is to be a part of our great country and to compete with these veterans who gave so much to preserve our freedom,” he says. “Being able to meet new friends and see old friends is a big part of this experience. Life was given to us so we could enjoy being with one another. I am very thankful and grateful that we can do that.”

Brumit’s advice to the newcomers is to pick out the toughest, most challenging event, get in shape and train for it. He will compete this year in horseshoes, swimming, shuffleboard and bowling, and hopes to add a few more medals to his collection. “Whether I bring back medals or not, I will be happy participating and being involved,” he says. Upon further reflection, he quickly added, “Of course, I still would like to win some though!”

